

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested for claims 1-6. Favorable action is requested for new claims 7-8.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 6 has been amended to address the grounds for rejection, and withdrawal of the rejection is cordially urged.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,584,738 to *Andra et al.* Claim 1, from which claims 2-8 depend, defines a tensioning device for strip-shaped tension members on supporting structures, comprising a tensioning traverse, which is detachably fastened to a base plate that is permanently fastened to the supporting structure, a prestressing anchor attached to the strip-shaped tension member, pressing elements that are supported on the tensioning traverse and adapted to apply tension to the tension member, and a guide body which supports the tension member at least from above so that the tension member can glide relative to the guide body, the guide body being arranged between the tensioning traverse and the prestressing anchor in a stationary manner.

Andra et al. discloses a device with two hydraulic cylinders 15 (alleged to correspond to pressing elements) that form part of and extend from a clamping drive 14 (alleged to correspond to a guide body) and press against a clamping slide 10 (alleged to correspond to the prestressing anchor). Lateral guides 5 (alleged to correspond to tensioning traverse) are bolted to a base plate 4 and can be removed therefrom, and the clamping slide 10 is moved between the guides 5 by the cylinders 15. The clamping drive 14 is inserted between the clamping slide 10 and an angled segment 5a of the lateral guides 5.

The structure of *Andra et al.* alleged to correspond to the guide body recited in claim 1, i.e., the clamping drive 14 does not contact the tension member 1 and, thus, cannot reasonably be said to “support the tension member at least from above so that the tension member can glide relative to the guide body”. The transverse bar (not numbered in FIG. 1, although the lead line for right-most reference numeral 5, which designates the lateral guide, appears to extend to it) extending over the tension member 1 is substantially above the tension member as can be seen from FIG. 1 and FIG. 4.

In view of the differences between claim 1 and *Andra et al.*, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-8, are not anticipated by *Andra et al.*

The claims dependent from claim 1 are not anticipated by *Andra et al.* for additional reasons. For example, claim 2 recites that the guide body comprises a guide slit that can accommodate the tension body so that it can glide. The transverse bar extending over the tension member 1 and the cylinders 15 of the clamping drive 14 do not form a structure that could reasonably be described as a “slit”. Moreover, the transverse bar and the cylinders of the clamping drive do not define a guide slit that is defined on all sides by the guide body, as recited in new claim 8.

Andra et al. also does not disclose that structure corresponding to a guide body forms a reversal point for the tension member as recited in claim 7.

In view of the additional differences between the claims dependent from claim 1 and *Andra et al.*, it is respectfully submitted that these differences further demonstrate that these claims are not anticipated by *Andra et al.*

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, claims 1-8, are in condition for allowance. Allowance is cordially urged.

To the extent that the applicant does not respond to a particular comment in the Official Action, the applicant does not intend by this to indicate acquiescence in or agreement with the comment. To the extent that any extensions of time are necessary in connection with this application it is requested that there be a standing petition for extension of time and that any additional fees that are required, or refunds due, in connection with this or any other paper filed in connection with this application be charged to Deposit Account 503015.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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